

**Executive Committee for Highway Safety
Lane Departure Working Group
Meeting Minutes – Mtg. #2
April 12, 2004**

Location:

Chief Engineer's Conference Room, Beryl Drive @ 2:00 p.m.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Steve Varnedoe	Kimberly Overton	Joe Geigle	Roger Thomas
Charlie Zegeer	Calvin Johnson	Sgt. Tim Hartsell	Jimmy Eatmon
Reuben Moore	Bucky Galloway	F. Sgt. Mike Hartsell	Kevin Lacy

Scribe:

Cliff Braam

Minutes:

- The meeting began at approximately 2:15 p.m.

Task I – Welcome/Introductions

- Steve opened the meeting, welcomed and thanked everyone for coming and participating. He provided some background information on why the group was there and highway safety issues in NC particularly as related to lane departure crashes.
- Steve talked about the fatal slip e-mails that Traffic Safety Unit sends out 3 times a week. These list fatalities that have occurred as reported by the State Highway Patrol. The group felt it would be beneficial to get these.
- Next everyone in the group introduced themselves and where they were from. Name tents were also provided.

Task II – Overview Presentation

- Cliff gave a presentation providing background information on the Executive Committee for Highway Safety (ECHS), the accomplishments of the ECHS to date, the formation of the initial 6 Working Groups, and finally the role/charge of the working group and what was expected.

Task III– Lane Departure Data Presentation

- Kevin gave a presentation on specific data elements as related to lane departure related crashes and fatalities in North Carolina as a base for the group to begin thinking about issues and solutions.
- It was noted that data extracted from the DMV-349 may not be the best to use and that it was not “good” data for a number of reason. However, during subsequent discussions, it was noted that data elements on the 349 are as good and accurate as the reporting officer makes

them. It was discussed that there are some limitations within the 349, but as long as these are known then informed decisions can be made as to the validity of the data and its usefulness. Generally speaking, the 349 serves as an excellent basis for making data driven decisions.

- Kevin gave an overview of the 349 and discussed the various data elements in question at the crash, vehicle levels.
- One area of concern with how the 349 is filled out, centered around training issues, i.e. do the officers understand what is being asked and how to interpret and correctly report these data elements. Officer training on completing the 349, may be an issue warranting further investigation.
- Steve spoke about some of the initiatives within the DOT such as the Moving Ahead program and DOT's Business and Long Range Plans.

Task IV– Brainstorming/Open Discussion/

There was much general discussion about a variety of issues with the primary emphasis being placed on obtaining additional data in areas that were not covered in the presentation at this meeting. These items are listed below in the “Action Items” section.

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Action Items:

Name	Item
Braam	Get group names added to the fatal slip e-mail distribution list.
Lacy	Will send the group information on the different levels of crash data to help clarify the differences between each.
Braam	Will e-mail the group updated contact information.
Braam	Additional data analysis on Lane Departure crashes to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lane widths • Time of day • % of road by class compared to % of road class lane miles on the system • Posted v. Estimated Speed • Sampling of shoulder widths • By age • Secondary roads by paved and unpaved
F. Sgt. Hartsell	Will provide group with copies of reconstruction reports for review.
Galloway	Will provide information at the next meeting on fatal investigations performed by Traffic Engineering's Regional offices.
Braam	On overview of North Carolina's Highway Safety Improvement Program.

Lacy/.TSSMU	Before & After comparison of crashes on 2 lane roads where shoulders have been added.
Zegeer	Provide copies (electronic or hard) of the Southeast Fatal Report to group members.
Everyone	Discuss data elements with staff and brainstorm on issues, solutions, etc. in preparation for the next meeting.
Everyone	Send agenda items to Cliff two weeks prior to next meeting date once it is scheduled.
Everyone	Send available dates for the next meeting to Cliff by April 23. The date range selected was between June 7 th -18 th .